paragraph:

Besides, even if any member such as the guide plate 13 affected by deformation such as curving or expansion/contraction owing to factors such as variation of temperature, the prism sheet 13 is hard to contact with the emission face 13C of the guide plate 13, because the composite optical element is mounted in the LCD panel 12 which is held spaced from the surface light source device 11. Accordingly, the prism sheet 21 is prevented from sticking to the emission face.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page13, line 19, with the following paragraph:

In this case, the polarization separation sheet member may be coupled with the prism sheet 21 to provide a composite optical element. Three elements (prism sheet 21, polarization separation sheet member SP and polarization film 16) may be coupled with one another to provide a composite optical element, as shown in Fig. 6.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please AMEND the following claims:

6. (ONCE AMENDED) A composite optical element comprising a laminated structure, comprising:

a polarization separating sheet member which transmits input light components having a first polarization plane and reflects input light components having a second polarization plane perpendicular to the first polarization plane; and

a polarization film, wherein one face of the composite optical element provides a light control face for modifying directivity of input light.

Please ADD the following claims:

7. (NEW) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a surface light source device;

a composite optical element comprising: